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UNCLAS HARARE 000523

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/PDPA FOR DALTON, MITCHELL AND SIMS
NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR GURNEY
PARIS FOR NEARY
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [ZI](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IRAQ; HARARE

¶1. Under headline "Claire blasts Blair's blurry vision" the government-controlled daily "Chronicle" dedicated its March 12 editorial to criticizing President George Bush for imposing sanctions on the Mugabe government, saying the executive order is "a calculated program to oust President Mugabe and install an MDC puppet regime." Adding, "the so-called smart sanctions on Zimbabwe and its leaders will adversely affect the generality of the people in the country, especially the vulnerable." Excerpts:

¶2. "...After sheepishly endorsing Tony Blair's imperialist foreign policies, some senior Britons appear to be seeing the light and giving an ear to the voice of reason. . . Britain's International Development Minister, Ms. Claire Short has threatened to resign if her government goes to war with Iraq without being sanctioned by the United Nations. . . Blair and his cousin, George W. Bush of the United States, have appointed themselves the world policing agents and are determined to undermine everyone including the U.N. in their bid to eliminate any voices in the political arena they consider to be odd. They appear resolved to usher in a culture in world politics where all leaders do not see, hear or speak evil about their neo-colonial foreign policies.

"According to reports, Bush issued an executive order on Friday to the U.S. Congress accusing the ruling party in Zimbabwe of undermining democracy. . . The order is clearly part of a calculated program to oust President Mugabe and install an MDC (Movement for Democratic Change) puppet regime with a view to reversing the land reform program. . . It is ironic that people like Bush, who became president through the courts, want to preach democracy to President Mugabe who spent several years in prisons and in the bush fighting for a democratic dispensation in Zimbabwe. We view the interference of the Blair and Bush administrations on Zimbabwe and other Third World countries as terrorism and demand that the United Nations censure them. Britain and the U.S. need more people of the mould of Ms. Short to help knock sense into the Blairs and Bushes of this world. The war on Iraq will kill the innocent, mostly women and children, and it is not surprising that Ms. Short is opposed to it. On a similar vein the so-called smart sanctions on Zimbabwe and its leaders will adversely affect the generality of the people in the country, especially the vulnerable."

SULLIVAN